

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/882,581

Examiner

Sunray Chang

Applicant(s)

BRONSTEIN ET AL.

Art Unit

2121

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to July 16th, 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-6 and 8-20.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

ALBERT BECADY
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNICAL CENTER 2100
SPE A.U. 2121

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. This office action is in responsive to the paper filed on July 16th, 2007.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
 - The claimed invention is a health assessor for assessing health of a target element within a multi-element system.
 - The claimed method include a limitation, in light of the specification, "a probabilistic reasoning network coupled to the evaluators to receive the assessment from each of the evaluators [Bayesian network, page 18, line 20 – 23, Fig. 6] and to analyze the assessments in accordance with a pre-configured reasoning definition so as to provide an overall probabilistic health assessment of the target element, the probabilistic reasoning network to analyze the assessments from the evaluators according to information indicating reliabilities of the respective evaluators" [to estimate, to compute the overall probabilistic health report, page 18, lines 9 – 19]. [further see specification page 18, line 9 – page 19, line 11; and page 23, line 16 – page 24, line 1]
 - The combination of prior art of record does not expressly disclose or suggest the "health assessor" with the feature of "a probabilistic reasoning network coupled to the evaluators to receive the assessment from each of the evaluators and to analyze the assessments in accordance with a pre-configured reasoning definition so as to provide an overall probabilistic health assessment of the target element, the probabilistic reasoning network to analyze the assessments from the evaluators according to information indicating reliabilities of the respective evaluators".
3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

Art Unit: 2121

4. Claim 7 has been cancelled.

Claims 1 – 6 and 8 – 20 are deemed allowable.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sunray Chang who may be reached Monday through Friday, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. EST. via telephone number (571) 272-3682 or facsimile transmission (571) 273-3682 or email sunray.chang@uspto.gov.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Vincent can be reached on (571) 272-3080.

6. The official facsimile transmission number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

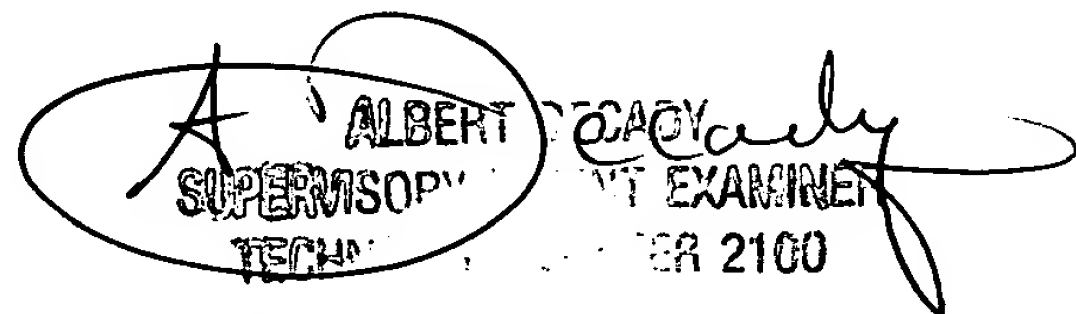
Sunray Chang

Patent Examiner

Group Art Unit 2121

Technology Center 2100

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office



SPE A.U. 2121

June 19, 2008